

# EAP E-NEWSLETTER

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## MEDICATION AWARENESS



### .PRESCRIPTION-DRUG ABUSE SENDS MORE TO EMERGENCY ROOMS THAN COCAINE OR MARIJUANA

Nearly a half million Americans had drug-related emergency-room visits in 2004 for abuse of prescription and over-the-counter drugs, far more than for cocaine or marijuana, according to data released May 10, 2006 by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration ("SAMHSA"). The SAMHSA survey found that 1.3 million emergency-room visits were associated with drug misuse and abuse, and demonstrated the national "surge" in prescription-drug abuse.



## ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH

There are approximately 75,000 deaths attributable to excessive alcohol use each year in the United States. This makes excessive alcohol use the 3rd leading lifestyle-related cause of death for the nation. In the single year 2003, there were over 2 million hospitalizations and over 4 million emergency room visits for alcohol-related conditions.

[www.cdc.gov/alcohol/quickstats/general\\_info.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/quickstats/general_info.htm)



## TEEN DRIVERS

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for 15 to 20 year olds. This age group accounts for 6.3% of licensed drivers but 12.6% of drivers

involved in fatal crashes.

A study released January 25, 2007 by the Children's Hospital of

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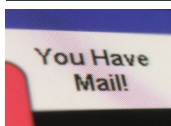
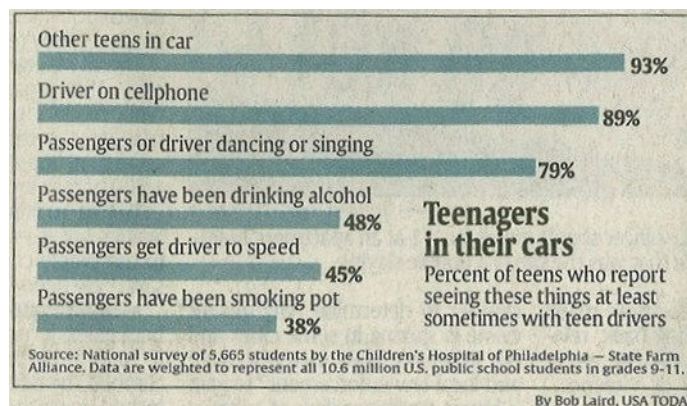
Philadelphia and State Farm Insurance Companies indicated that teens don't grasp the risks of driver distractions such as cell phones, loud music, and young passengers. 5,665 ninth-, tenth-, and eleventh-graders from 68 randomly selected schools were surveyed. The most significant finding is that the environment inside the vehicle is very different from what adults may expect. 50% say they have seen other teens drink and drive or ride with someone that has been drinking. Speeding, driving while fatigued and dealing with distractions such as loud noise or "passengers acting wild" were reported at higher percentages.

Earlier research has shown that teen drivers carrying one teen passenger double the risk of a fatal crash than a teen driving alone. Two or more passengers increases that risk five times.



Parents should discuss these risk with their teen drivers. While some states have graduated driving programs which limit the number of passengers and hours that young drivers may be behind the wheel, parents must consider the research and set limits with their teens even if their state doesn't.

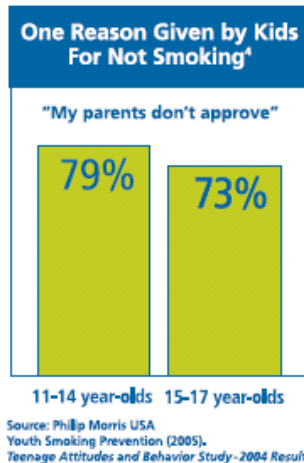
**USA Today**  
**January 25,**  
**2007**  
**Survey shows**  
**challenging**  
**environment**  
**reported by teen**  
**drivers.**



## Communications on Company Computers Are Not Private

A survey of 1,000 employees by WeComply, a business ethics training firm, found that more than half of respondents were unaware that communications such as email, instant messages, internet searches, and unsent files may be stored electronically by their employer and could become public.

It is important that workers recognize that they should not have an expectation of privacy when using work computers.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEMS

205-879-1150

800-245-1150